

REMARKS

Applicants agree with the Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance that both Shriberg et al., *Prosody-Based Automatic Segmentation of Speech into Sentences and Topics*, Speech Communication 32 (2000) 127-154 and McKiel, Jr., U.S. Patent No. 5,448,679.

...fail to specifically disclose the step of determining if the input signal contains un-voiced information if the fundamental frequency estimates are lower than a threshold value, and if the input signal contains voiced information if the fundamental frequency estimates are higher than a threshold value. The prior art references also fail to teach the step of extracting prosodic features in the region between 500-4000 ms where the fundamental frequency estimates are lower than the threshold; that is non-voiced region of the signal. Furthermore, it would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify Shriberg et al. and/or McKiel, Jr. in order to obtain the claimed invention. Therefore, claims 1, 3, 4, 6, and 8-14 (now amended 1-11) are allowed over prior art of record.

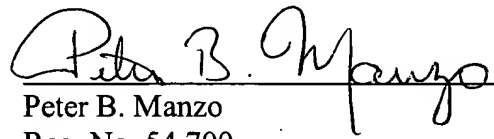
Notice of Allowance dated July 20, 2006, page 2, Allowable Subject Matter.

However, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1, 11, and 12 of the present invention also include additionally allowable subject matter. Specifically, neither Shriberg et al. nor McKiel, Jr. teach or suggest "combining the plurality of prosodic features" and "determining boundaries for the semantic or syntactic units depending only on the combined plurality of prosodic features" as recited in independent claims 1, 11, and 12. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that the above-recited claim features also are allowable subject matter.

The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number if in the opinion of the Examiner such a telephone conference would expedite or aid the prosecution and examination of this application.

DATE: August 14, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Peter B. Manzo". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and address.

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